

Fact Sheet

NCI Addresses the Global Challenge of Cancer

Each year, more than 11 million people are diagnosed with cancer and more than 6 million die worldwide—more deaths than AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined. The National Cancer Institute (NCI), established under the National Cancer Institute Act of 1937, is the United States (U.S.) government's principal agency for cancer research and training. NCI's international efforts catalyze research and build global capacity for research. The NCI funds foreign contracts and grants, develops partnerships with other nations and organizations, and provides training opportunities for American scientists abroad and foreign scientists in the U.S.

The *NCI Office of International Affairs* (OIA) is the focal point for the execution of many of the Institute's international outreach and health diplomacy programs and helps support NCI's mission to carry out collaborative international research and training.

Highlights of International Efforts

Partnerships—Many of NCI's international efforts are highly collaborative, leveraging resources and creating synergy across regions. Through international partnerships such as the *Middle East Cancer Consortium* (MECC), the *International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research*, the *American Russian Cancer Alliance*, the *U.S.-Japan Cooperative Cancer Research Program* (USJCCRP), and the *Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium*, the global capacity for cancer-related research continues to expand. These joint ventures facilitate research development, training activities, and workshops.

Training—Building human capacity for cancer research is an essential component of NCI's international efforts. In 2009, over 1,000 researchers from 83 countries conducted research at NCI laboratories. NCI also offers tailored training activities, such as the *NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention*, which includes scientists and health professionals from around the world.

Research—The NCI remains committed to supporting and expanding international research efforts because research anywhere has the potential to benefit people everywhere. This global approach to research allows basic and clinical research and training in settings better suited to the needs of both U.S. and foreign scientists. Through its intramural and extramural programs, NCI aids the work of scientists in cancer centers, universities, hospitals, research foundations, and businesses throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Workshops—OIA fosters joint research between scientists by co-sponsoring international workshops. OIA workshops unite small groups of U.S. and foreign scientists, enabling them to exchange and disseminate information or explore or clarify a defined subject, question, or an area of knowledge. Examples include the USJCCRP Workshops, All-Ireland NCI Cancer Conferences, and MECC Workshops on palliative care and oncology nursing.

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